A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 3. 1709.

IT has always been the Uſage of this Paper and of its Author in all Caſes, never to ſtrike his Enemy when he is down—— 'Tis not a generous *Engliſh* Way of Fighting——and I ſcorn the Advantage of it—— If the Author of *Scandal*, if the *Rehearſal* reviv'd is taken up, and fallen, through any of his Inadvertencies, into the Hands of the Government, he has enough upon him, I wiſh him well out again; I ſhall never officiouſly prompt any Man's Diſaſters.

But to you, Gentlemen, who call your ſelves Friends to the Church of *England*—— or who are Teachers and Miniſters of the Church of *England*, give me leave to offer one *Eclairciſſement* to you for the reſtoring your reflecting Faculties in this Caſe—— You may even in this Caſe ſee, how you are us'd in the World, and who underhand, ſcrews and works you up, as if you were meer Engines or Machines, and makes you ſubſerve to their vile Projects in all your *High-Flying* Extravagancies—— You may ſee it plainly in this—That whenever a virulent Pamphlet, a *High-Church* Memorial, a *Scots Narrative*, or any ſuch inflaming Libel is publiſh'd——— The Authors are all Non-Jurors—— Your *Rehearſal* formerly written, your New *Rehearſal* reviv'd, your *Novel* and *Scandal*, all profeſs'd Non-Jurors——— Theſe, whoſe Intereſt it is to be your Dividers and your Deſtroyers; Theſe are your Pamphleteers, and

and ſet up to be your Defenders——— Scandalous Blindneſs! How can you be ſo dark! How is it poſſible, Men in their their Sences ſhould be thus impos'd upon! Can a *Non-Juror* argue for the Church?— Can he be ſuppos'd to defend the Clergy, and ſupport the Conſtitution of the Church! *Juſt ſo* this is, and *no more*, than *Guy Faux*'s Timber and Stones, which he hid in the Cellar, were to ſupport the Foundations of the Parliament Houſe, and preſerve the Aſſembly that met above—— Whereas in Truth they were laid to hide Gun-Powder that was laid under them, and to aſſiſt in carrying up the whole Building, when the Mine was to be fir'd.

Awake, Gentlemen, and rouze your ſelves for Shame——— Can *Jacobites* and *Non-Jurors* be your Defence—Do they not diſown your Eſtabliſhment? Do they not declare you Schiſmatical? Do they not tell you, you are fallen from the true Foundation? Have they not unbiſhop'd all your Prelates, and ungoſpeliz'd all your Miniſters; unking'd all your Eſtabliſhment, and unbleſs'd your Sovereign and Head? —— Do not they reſerve their Allegiance for another Line, their Worſhip in another Synagogue? — Do they not pray to God to dethrone and depoſe your QUEEN, in conſtantly praying for the reſtoring a contemptible Pretender? — In a Word, Are they not in cloſe Confederacy with *France*, and Hell, to undermine the Revolution, unravel the Succeſſion, and invade the Union?

And are theſe your Teachers? — Are theſe your bleſſed Oracles, whoſe Libels you read with pleaſure, whoſe Volumes you collect, who you permit to ſummon your Clergy *to exert themſelves*, *Rehearſal Reviv'd*, Vol. II. p. 2. What, Gentlemen! has the Church of *England* no Defender of her own, no Champions to plead her Cauſe, or Fight her Battles— but theſe that damn her Conſtitution, and declare War againſt her Eſtabliſhment? This is very hard— The Caſe of the Church of *England* will be ſad indeed— ſhe will be crucified between Thieves indeed at this rate, when Non-Jurors on one Hand, and High-Flyers on the other, ſurround her— What is become of the Learning, Wit, and Vigour, the Vivacity of Spirit, Beauty of Stile, and Strength of Argument that uſe to appear among the Writers of the Church of *England*? Certainly, either the Men are all dead, and there are none left in the Church able to defend her; all her preſent Clergy are ignorant, uncapable, dull, and ſleepy, and not able to ſpeak a Word for her——— or elſe the Caſe is quite another than we underſtand it——— The Quarrel is not right, that the Men of Capacity, Honour, Parts, and Integrity in the Church are on the other Side, and will not meddle with it.

And indeed here is the Caſe in few words——— The Wiſe, Sober, Judicious, Learned Men among the Church— abhor this Strife, the Contention is deteſtable— They cannot dip their Hands in *Jacobite* Confuſions, or their Pens in Defence of High-flying Abſurdities——— Moderation and Chriſtian Charity to Diſſenters, Union with a Sifter Nation of Proteſtants——— Eſtabliſhing the Succeſſion in a Proteſtant Line, theſe are things ſo evidently valuable, ſo happy to us all, ſo eſſential to our Peace, and of ſuch infinite Conſequence to us all, that theſe Gentlemen cannot find it reaſonable to oppoſe them; They ſee the Safety of the Church in thoſe very things in which this furious Party cries out of Danger and Deſtruction, and they ſee Danger and Deſtruction in thoſe very things that this wicked Party pretend Safety and Deliverance: Wiſe Men are always Men of Peace, and Good Men, Men of Moderation—

This is the Reaſon why, when you come to enquire into *Rehearſals* and *Poſtſcripts*, *Memorials* and *Narratives*, and all your raving Pamphlets, you find the Authors *all*, *every one of them* Non-Jurors.

This is the Reaſon, when Dr. *S——l* lifted up his bloody Flag lately at St. *Paul's*, the Honeſt, Wiſe, Judicious Gentlemen that heard him, would not accept his Invitation to Blood, nor thank him for his laudable Endeavours of inflaming the Nation.

This is the Reaſon, why her Majeſty has ſo frequently pledg'd Her MAIDEN HONOUR, I mean that ROYAL WORD,

WORD, which, contrary to the Uſage of Princes, eſpecially in this Age, was NEVER YET broken; that the Toleration ſhall be preſerved INVIOLABLE.

This was the Reaſon, why the Parliament, tho' Nineteen Parts of Twenty were profeſs'd Members of the Church of *England*, yet rejected that illegal Project of the Occaſional Bill.

This was the Reaſon why the Nation ſpued out the TACKERS at the next Election, and of the Hundred Thirty Four, few above a Third could ever get into the Houſe again.

This is the Reaſon, why the Honour of the Government is given now to the People of *Scotland*, to aſſure them of a punctual Regard to the Union, which that wretched Party are Daily encroaching upon by Jacobite Innovations.

This is the Reaſon why the Pamplets and Clamours of *Jacobites* are ſuppreſs'd, and the Government keeps Steady to the Principle of preſerving the Nation's Peace.

Certainly the Eyes of the World will *ſome time or other* be opened—and they will ſee—That while theſe Wolves keep the Sheep, they have ſomething elſe in View, than preſerving the Fold— The Cauſe muſt have ſomething elſe in it, when it is defended by ſuch Advocates: The Church of *England* certainly cannot be reduc'd to that paſs, to be defended by *Jacobites*—— Thoſe to plead for her, that hate and diſown her; thoſe to be her Champions, that are her declar'd Enemies —— Lamentable Auxilliaries theſe will be indeed—if they Conquer in her Name they'll ſerve her juſt as our Anceſtors here did the poor *Britains*, firſt Save them, and then Devour them—— if they are Conquered, they'll let her fall, and ſtand at a Diſtance to Laugh at her Deſtruction.

MISCELLANEA.

AMong the mighty Arguments of a late Paper againſt Atheiſm and Error, the Liberty of the Preſs was brought as a particular Thing; which being reſtrained, would go a great way to prevent thoſe Miſchiefs—Now waving my needful Remark on the other, pernicious Deſigns which viſibly appeared in the great Clamour they raiſed at the Liberty of the Preſs, I took the Freedom to give my Thoughts on the ſame Head.

I agree in complaining of the preſent Scandalous Liberty of the Preſs——I'll ſtate it briefly with its Evils and Remedies.

The Evil Conſequences of the preſent Liberty of the Preſs are ſuch as theſe.

1. The ſcandalous and unjuſt Invaſions of Property— by which Printers and Bookſellers now make Inroads upon one another, and upon Authors, with the ſame Honeſty and Freedom, as plundering on the High-Way would be done, if there were no Law againſt Robbery; and this is an Evil ſo fatal, and ſo juſt a Reproach to a well-govern'd Nation, that it is a moſt unaccountable Thing, by what ill Fate the Attempts to rectify it have hitherto been rendred Abortive.

2. The great Diſcouragement this is to Learning and Induſtry, by which Means already the beſt Writers of this Age have laid down and deſpair'd, being not willing to ſpend their Days and Labour to be devoured by Thieves; and all the mighty Works of this Age are ſumm'd up in the paultry Collections of Bookſellers, *and Hackneys employ'd by them*; upon which they put the gay Titles of Hiſtories, Annals, Voy-

Voyages and Memoirs—— like a Bill of a fair House to be let——— set on the Door of a Hogstie——— for when you come to the Work, they are a general Rapsody of Piracy, Plagiarism and Confusion—and if this goes on, in a little time all kind of Learning will dwindle into Memoirs for History, Essay for Philosophy, Pamphlets for Politicks, and Two-Penny Sermons for Divinity.

3. A yet greater Mischief than these, is the wicked Liberty taken in this Age, in broaching (1.) All manner of Heresies and Errors in Religion (2.) Treason and Faction in Politicks—— to the Destruction both of God's Peace and the Queen's.

It is clear that these Evils are now raging among us——— Families are ruin'd by the first; Learning and Instruction is ruin'd by the second, the Peace of the Government is ruin'd by the next, and Mens Souls by the last.

Now it seems that both Sides are agreed in complaining of this Mischief, both Sides are eager for the Remedy——— but we cannot agree, *they say*, about the Method of preventing it———— But I shall endeavour to propose Methods for the Cure, which, if possible, no Body shall object against.

I shall offer out one Negative in it all—— That is, No LICENSER, whatever you do—— Partiality, Bribery, Siding with Parties, permitting Error, and crushing valuable Learning, were always the Consequences of a *Licenser* of the Press——— And above all, it is a visible Bondage upon Property: Every Man who writes *what it is no Breach of the Laws of God or Man* to publish; His Work is his Property, and he cannot be divested of that Property at the Will and Pleasure of any Man; no, not his Prince; to suppress his Labour, is to divest him of his Property——— And as to its being a Breach of the Law, nothing but the Law can determine that; it ought not to lie in the arbitrary Disposal of any one Man to License or Suppress it.

The positive Part follows.

☞ THese are to certifie, That I *Mary Ward*, Wife of *Thomas Ward*, in *Grub-street*, *London*, over against the *Black Periwig*, had the great Misfortune of having my Face blown up with combustible Matter, in such a deplorable and desperate Manner, that the Anguish thereof caus'd my Head to swell to a prodigious Bigness; and the Violence of the Blast was so terrible, that it burnt my Eyes, Face, and Head in such miserable Manner, that my Eyes were suppos'd by all that saw me, to be entirely extinct, and never to be recover'd; But my Friends hearing of the many Eminent and Wonderful Cures perform'd by Sir *WILLIAM READ*, Her Majesty's OCULIST, in *Durham-Yard*, in the *Strand*, *London*; We made use of his Advice and Means, which, by GOD's Blessing, had the good Effect, as to remove all my Agony and Pain in 24 Hours, and in a Fortnight's Time, restor'd me to my perfect Sight, without leaving any Scar or Speck, or the least Sign thereof. All is here attested by me in Justice to Sir *WILLIAM READ*, and for the publick Service,—this 23d of *November*, 1709.

Mary Ward.

Witness *John* and *Dina Perk*, Father and Mother to the said *Mary Ward*.

*** *NOTE*, Sir *WILLIAM READ*, by his long Practice, and great Experience, has lately found out a Medicine, that infallibly prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and preserves the Sight in Old and Young.

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